



File Code: 1950
Date: November 20, 2020

Dear Stakeholders:

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF), Carson Ranger District, welcome your comments on the attached proposed action for the NV Energy Resilience Corridors project. We propose to treat vegetation on approximately 5,300 acres along power lines within the two National Forests to improve wildlife habitat, promote tree growth, improve timber stand resilience, and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire on commercial, private, and public infrastructure. This action is consistent with NV Energy's Natural Disaster Protection Plan. Treatments would include but are not limited to, pole grubbing, forest thinning, removal of hazard and disease or insect-infected trees, removal of forest biomass, pile burning, prescribed burning, and development of defensible space protection zones. Please refer to the accompanying map for the locations of proposed activities.

Decision Framework

Though this is a joint project between the two forests, the HTNF has delegated its decision responsibility to me, and I will be authorizing actions on National Forest System (NFS) lands for both administrative units.

Environmental Analysis

Through preliminary analysis, we determined this project satisfies the requirements for a Categorical Exclusion, resulting in a Decision Memo, and have identified the following applicable categories:

For the LTBMU, the proposed action meets the criteria outlined in the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-322):

A forest management activity conducted in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit for the purpose of reducing forest fuels is categorically excluded from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, if the forest management activity:

- (A) does not exceed 10,000 acres, including not more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning;*
- (B) is developed in coordination with impacted parties, specifically including representatives of local governments, such as county supervisors or county commissioners and in consultation with other interested parties; and,*
- (C) is consistent with the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit land and resource management plan.*

For the HTNF, the proposed action would fall under the category (36 CFR 220.6(e)(6)):

Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction.

National Historic Preservation Act Requirements

Section 106 under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, requires federal agencies such as the USDA Forest Service to identify and consider potential effects of its actions on historic properties. This is done through a collaborative framework of seeking, discussing, and considering views of the public on how potential adverse effects on historic properties resulting from a proposed Federal action should be addressed.



How to Comment and Timeframe

The proposed action and project maps are on the LTBMU Projects webpage: <https://go.usa.gov/xmgxT>. On that web page, scroll down to "Under Analysis" section and select "NV Energy Resilience Corridors".

To review the proposed action: On the "NV Energy Resilience Corridors" project web page under Project Documents, select the "Scoping" tab.

To comment: On that project webpage, under the right-hand column heading "Get Connected", select "Comment/ Object on Project".

Comments need to be submitted through the web page and will guarantee review, if submitted **by December 21, 2020 (11:59pm)**. Please include: (1) your name, address, phone number, email address, and organization, if any; (2) in the subject line – NV Energy Resilience Corridors; (3) where you heard of this project (newspaper, email, word of mouth, etc.); and, (4) specific facts and relevant rationale you feel should be considered. The LTBMU will be responsible for handling public comments. Your comments and contact information will be considered part of the public record and may be available for public inspection.

For further information regarding this project, please contact Victor Lyon at 530-545-2060. Thank you for your continued interest in our public lands.

Sincerely,



DANELLE D. HARRISON

Acting Forest Supervisor

Attachments: NV Energy Resilience Corridors Proposed Action and Map

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